

## **Assembly Bill No. 1948**

### **CHAPTER 332**

An act to add Section 14011.75 to the Welfare and Institutions Code, relating to child health.

[Approved by Governor September 19, 2006. Filed with  
Secretary of State September 19, 2006.]

#### **LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST**

AB 1948, Montanez. Medi-Cal program: Healthy Families Program: Child Health and Disability Prevention (CHDP) program.

Existing law provides for the Medi-Cal program, which is administered by the State Department of Health Services and under which qualified low-income persons receive health care benefits.

Existing law establishes the Healthy Families Program, administered by the Managed Risk Medical Insurance Board, to arrange for the provision of health services to an eligible person.

Existing law establishes the Child Health and Disability Prevention (CHDP) program, administered by the department, to provide early and periodic assessments of the health status of children.

Under existing law, benefits under the Medi-Cal program provided to an individual pursuant to a preliminary determination end, without the necessity for any further review or determination by the department, on or before the last day of the month following the month in which the preliminary determination was made, unless an application for medical assistance is filed on or before that date. If an application for medical assistance is filed before this deadline, preliminary benefits continue until the regular eligibility determination based on the application has been completed.

Existing law requires the department to develop an electronic application to serve as the application for preenrollment into the Medi-Cal program or the Healthy Families Program and to also serve as an application for the CHDP program.

This bill would require the department to conduct, or contract for the conducting of, a technological feasibility study report of technological requirements for modifying the above electronic application to allow a person applying on behalf of a child the option to simultaneously preenroll and apply for enrollment in the Medi-Cal program or the Healthy Families Program over the Internet without submitting a followup paper application. The bill would require the results of the feasibility study report to be provided to the fiscal and health policy committees of the Legislature on or before March 1, 2008.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

SECTION 1. Section 14011.75 is added to the Welfare and Institutions Code, to read:

14011.75. (a) The department shall conduct, or contract for the conducting of, a feasibility study report of technological requirements for modifying the electronic application authorized pursuant to Section 14011.7, known as the CHDP Gateway, to allow a person applying on behalf of a child the option to simultaneously preenroll and apply for enrollment in the Medi-Cal program or the Healthy Families Program over the Internet without submitting a followup paper application pursuant to the criteria set forth in subdivision (c).

(b) The results of the feasibility study report shall be provided to the fiscal and health policy committees of the Legislature on or before March 1, 2008.

(c) (1) The modifications to the CHDP Gateway that shall be the subject of the feasibility study report of technological requirements under subdivision (a) shall allow an optional electronic application for enrollment to be submitted at the time of applying for preenrollment, so long as written consent to exercise the option is obtained.

(2) The optional electronic application developed for the purposes of this section shall comply with all of the following:

(A) Be the simplest permitted by federal law to achieve the purposes of this section, except that nothing in this section shall allow self-certification of income.

(B) Be adequate to constitute an application for medical assistance.

(C) Request only the information that is necessary to provide the child with continuing preliminary benefits within the meaning of subdivision (b) of Section 14011.8 until a final eligibility determination is made pursuant to the federal options described in Section 1396r-1a or Section 1397ee(1)(D) of Title 42 of the United States Code and to the extent federal financial participation is allowed.

(d) The department shall consult with representatives of consumers, counties, and medical providers in developing the policies and procedures for the modifications to the CHDP Gateway that shall be the subject of the feasibility study report of technological requirements under this section.